

Fig. 1 *Nuphar advena* from Corehouse: partially opened flower.



Fig. 2 Mat-forming water avens with *flore pleno* and proliferative anomalies.



In 1998 and 1999 detailed surveys were undertaken in that region. Between a slag heap and a burn, in an area of 40 square yards, compact dwarf plants were seen forming fairly solid ground cover. Many were double-flowered, some proliferative and some had both these features (Fig. 2, this page). Within 100 yards of this site many slightly taller plants were noted, some exhibiting one or other of the above abnormalities.

In view of the extreme frequency of the anomalies at this location I wonder if they are related to the high lead content in the soil.

#### Reference

McClintock, D. & Macpherson, P. (1995). An aberrant *Geum*. *That Plant's Odd* 5, 2-3.

#### Water chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*) in a growbag in Milngavie

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I have used growbags for a number of years and have had the occasional seedlings appearing in them e.g. *Persicaria* spp. (1998), and in 1999 it showed up in the vegetable bed where the spent growbag was used. Dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and others appeared in 1999. I am not very thorough when it comes to weeding and if coming across a seedling I do not recognise it is left alone until it can be identified. This could well have led to the discovery of the water chickweed in 1999, confirmed by Prof. J.H. Dickson, when it turned up among my sweet peas in a growbag. It pays to be not too fussy when weeding. One never knows what might turn up!

Water chickweed is common in southern Britain but very rare in Scotland and the occurrences in the Glasgow area are the northernmost. It normally inhabits wet places such as stream-sides and ditches but according to Burton (1983) it can also flourish on dry ground.

In the *The Changing Flora of Glasgow* (Dickson *et al.*, 2000) the local occurrences are listed as follows: "Four modern records are associated with the Clyde: Uddingston (T70), Cambuslang (T68), Dalbeth Cemetery (T57) and the Garden Festival site (T44). Two other records are from waste ground, Barlanark (T27) and a flooded disused railway at Lambhill (T25). The plant is only well established at Uddingston where it grows with wood stitchwort (*Stellaria nemorum*). This is one of very few places in Britain where these two plants are known to be found intermixed".

The peat with which the growbag was made up will most likely have been sedge or fen peat from an area such as Somerset, as the *Myosoton* avoids acid soil.

If seeds of water chickweed are transported in peat-based compost as used in growbags then its occurrences in places like the Garden Festival site can be readily explained.

*Myosoton* differs from wood stitchwort in having sessile leaves and five styles opposed to three. Both have petals bifid almost to the base giving the illusion of ten petals. It is self fertile and probably self pollinating as a cutting of it flowered and set seed in late summer/autumn 1999 in my greenhouse.

#### References

- Burton, R.M. (1983). *Flora of the London Area*. London Natural History Society.
- Dickson, J.H., Macpherson, P. & Watson, K. (2000). *The Changing Flora of Glasgow*. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

## ZOOLOGICAL

### Casual record of Adonis' ladybird (*Adonia variegata*) in Dumbarton

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On 15<sup>th</sup> March 1999 we found a specimen of Adonis' ladybird (*Adonia variegata*) in our kitchen. As Adonis' ladybird is absent from Scotland (Majerus, 1994) and a rarity in England (Majerus, 1995) we were very surprised by this find. On the 17<sup>th</sup> March we found a further example of Adonis' ladybird, in our house, resting on grapes we had purchased from the local Safeway store. We surmised that the source was hibernating individuals on grapes (country of origin, Italy) which had become active, being awakened from hibernation by the heat of the house. Both Adonis' ladybirds were of the 13 spot variant, as described in Majerus & Kearns (1989), plate 6.

Adonis' ladybirds are uncommon in Britain with a disjunct and erratic distribution and occurrence (Majerus, 1995). As Adonis' ladybird is common in southern Europe and the Mediterranean (Majerus, 1995) it is possible that some of the British records for this species are also casual records *via* produce imported from Europe.

We thank Geoff Hancock and Richard Sutcliffe for verifying the identification and John Mitchell for encouragement. The specimens were presented to Glasgow Museums.

#### References

- Majerus, M. & Kearns, P. (1989). *Ladybirds*. Naturalists Handbook 10. The Richmond Publishing Co. Ltd.
- Majerus, M. (1994). *Ladybirds*. The New Naturalist. Harper Collins.
- Majerus, M. (1995). *The current status of Ladybirds in Britain*. Final report of the Cambridge Ladybird Survey 1984-1994. University of Cambridge.

### *Xylocoris cursitans* (Fallen) (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae) new to Scotland, from Roxburghshire

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*Xylocoris cursitans* is a predatory bug which lives beneath the bark of dead trunks and limbs which are in the early stages of decay, especially oak and beech, but also in a wide range of trees including conifers. It feeds on insect larvae, springtails, thrips, etc. It is fairly widespread in the ancient woodlands and wood pastures of England and Wales, but has not previously been reported from Scotland.

The Jedwater Woodlands at Sunnybraescaur (NT6518), Roxburghshire, are a valuable area of large old oak standards which support an unusually diverse wood-decay invertebrate fauna which is characteristic of southern temperate broad-leaved wood pastures. Adults and nymphs of the bug *Xylocoris cursitans* were found beneath bark on fallen oaks, 23.v.1999, together with *Rhizophagus dispar* (Paykull) beetles – a potential prey item. Other significant finds were the beetles *Cerylon histeroideus* (F.), *Rhizophagus ferrugineus* (Paykull) and *Dryocoetinus villosus* (F.) and the crane fly *Ctenophora bimaculata* (L.). This would not be a particularly interesting assemblage in England but is certainly so in Scotland.

Thanks to Graham Rotheray for confirming that there are no published records for this bug from Scotland according to the Scottish Insect Records Index at the National Museums of Scotland; also to Stephen Hewitt and Stephen Moran for checking their own data.